

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application. Claims 1-11 have been cancelled and new Claims 21-29 have been added. Claim 12 has been amended to include the limitation of Claim 14. Claim 13 has been amended to read in independent form including limitations from Claim 16. Support for the amendments can be found in the previous claims, page 5, line 24 to page 6, line 5, and at page 7, lines 16-20 of the specification. Claims 12-29 are now pending in the application. Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 12, 13, 18 and 20.

Claim Objections

Claims 1-11 have been cancelled, therefore the claim objections relating to Claims 1, 2, 5, and 8 are moot.

Claim 13 is objected to as having an improper Markush group. Claim 13 has been amended as suggested by the Examiner.

Claims 14 and 16 are objected to for having two consecutive prepositions. Claims 14 and 16 have been amended to address the objection.

As all objections have been addressed, they should be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b) and 103(a)

Claims 1-3, 5, and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,212,780 to Fitzgerald (hereinafter "Fitzgerald"). Claim 3 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Fitzgerald. These rejections are moot since Claims 1-11 have been cancelled.

Claims 1-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 3,926,880 to Branlard et al. (hereinafter "Branlard") in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,926,880 to Esser et al. (hereinafter "Esser et al."). These rejections are moot since Claims 1-11 have been cancelled.

Claims 12, 13, 18 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Fitzgerald in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,141,875 to Brizzolara et al. (hereinafter "Brizzolara"). The Examiner indicates that Claims 14-17 and 19 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form because the identity and amount of thickening agent(s) are not taught specifically in the references.

Claim 12 has been amended to include the limitations of Claim 14 and is equivalent to Claim 14 being written in independent form. Claim 13 is amended to read in independent form including the limitations of previously presented Claim 12 and the limitation that the include the limitation that the adhesive composition contain "0.05 to 5 wt.% based on the adhesive composition of iii) a thickening agent."

As the Examiner indicates that the identity and amount of thickening agent(s) are not taught specifically in the references, Applicants assert that Claims 12 and 13, as well as the claims depending therefrom, are in form for allowance.

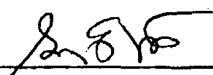
Therefore, the rejection of Claims 12, 13, 18 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of Claims 12-29 are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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